

Scientific Note

Records of the Palearctic Tortricid, *Clepsis consimilana*, In the Pacific Northwest: Can An Urban Moth be Overlooked for Half a Century?

In June, 1985, I collected a specimen of the widespread Palearctic species, *Clepsis consimilana* (Hübner) (= *unifasciana* Dup.) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae, Archipini), at Eugene, Lane Co., Oregon (Powell, 1986, Pan-Pacific Entomol., 62:165). I speculated that the record represented a well established colony, rather than the improbable coincidence of an isolated introduction having been encountered by a lepidopterist during a brief visit to the area. This theory appears to have been corroborated by the discovery of this species at Longview, Cowlitz Co., Washington, in 1986.

My second collection of *C. consimilana* in the Pacific Northwest also was serendipitous: during an overnight visit to Longview, I found three dead males which had been trapped in a light fixture in a motel. Only slight fading of their colors suggested that they had been entombed only 2-3 months, since the preceding flight season in June or July, 1986. (NY-CN collection records span May 30 to July 22; Powell & Burns, 1971, Psyche, 78:45). The new locality is near the Columbia River, which is a likely avenue of introduction, via overseas shipping. The site is ca. 164 airline km north of Eugene, OR, and occurrence of *C. consimilana* at Longview indicates this immigrant has colonized widely in the Willamette Valley.

Adults of *C. consimilana* are commonly attracted to lights, and other collectors have recorded several additional species of Palearctic tortricids in the Pacific Northwest in recent years (Powell, 1986, loc. cit.); hence populations ought to have been discovered if resident in the region for many years. However, records of the introduction and spread of adventive insects in North America characteristically are sporadic in time and space. For example, *C. consimilana* has been established in the Long Island-Connecticut area for about 50 years, but it has been sampled at only 6 sites, in 9 seasons, including an 11-year gap (Powell & Burns, 1971, loc. cit.; USNM records), and not at all during the past 20 years. I contacted resident entomologists in Oregon for possible additional records but without success. However, a thorough search of unidentified material at the Smithsonian Institution in November, 1986, revealed a single worn male of *C. consimilana* which had been collected by J. F. G. Clarke at Portland, OR, more than half a century ago, June 22, 1931!

Thus available records in the northwestern U.S. render a picture so sketchy that we cannot tell if the species entered the region once early in the century and persisted, or died out and then colonized a second time. A second invasion might have come from the Old World, or via secondary transport from New York. The Portland collection in 1931 precedes by 8 years the earliest known eastern U.S. record.

The species lives in urban situations, where the larvae feed on Privet (*Ligustrum*) and may be polyphagous in some circumstances. Entomologists in the Pacific Northwest are urged to intensify sampling of moths, particularly in urban areas, in

order to better focus our view of the colonization by *Clepsis consimilana* and other introduced microlepidoptera.

I thank V. M. Carolin, Jr., Portland, OR, and R. L. Westcott, Oregon Dept. Agric., Salem, who made efforts to locate *C. consimilana* specimens in collections under their care.

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